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MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief of Operations, DD/P

SUBJECT : Fourth Annual Presentation of Project
USEFUL, 7-18 October 1957
12-22 November 1957

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1. The fourth annual presentation of Project USEFUL, a two-week briefing of selected senior military personnel, will take place in Room 153, Building [REDACTED] from 7-18 October, inclusive. As you are aware, this project is to acquaint these officers, especially selected by the Joint Chiefs of Staff, with CIA's ability to support U.S. military operations in wartime.

2. The success of this program in previous years has stemmed from the willingness of the DD/P components to present a forthright picture of their present capabilities and limitations as well as preparations being made to support U.S. military operations in wartime. The success is doubly credited to the calibre of the lectures and to the authority and discretion which they have had to divulge solid information. The military officers who will attend are men who deal intimately with our affairs in their regular assignments. They are already grounded in the importance of discreteness and will be cleared by CIA for Top Secret.

3. As indicated on the attached draft schedule of Project USEFUL, the same calibre of guest lecturers is proposed. It will greatly help those conducting this project if the DD/P area division and staff lecturers listed on this schedule can be impressed with the importance of this project to CIA. It is vital that military planners understand our efforts, and endeavor to see the clandestine support problems from the CIA viewpoint.

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4. If appropriate, it is requested that this subject be raised at a weekly DD/P staff meeting and that the personnel designated on the schedule be urged to undertake the given lecture without delegation of the task. The pitch which would convince the military that we are talking turkey to them would be this: a description of our current operational job, to describe what kinds of things we do, with hypothetical illustrations, definitely without names, addresses, and phone numbers of our current operational apparatus, with attention to the problems and frustrations of doing the clandestine job and with emphasis on the fact that we have some results to show. In relation to wartime capability, to cover essentially the same ground as in our JCS correspondence on military requirements with the further detail of qualitative description of the assets which we have told them about, and with an additional description of the kinds of CIA wartime capabilities which have not so far been taken up by their requirements. I would appreciate your recommendation of this approach to the Area Divisions.

5. Your concurrence in this matter will be greatly appreciated.

conducting this project, will be ready to provide any additional information or assistance needed.

Acting Chief, Planning and Program
Coordination Staff

Attachment:
Project USEFUL Draft Schedule

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